



HAMILTON COUNTY
LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

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MINUTES

LEPC Meeting, July 10, 2002

A meeting of the Hamilton County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) was held July 10, 2002 at Wally's Restaurant, 6521 Ringgold Rd, East Ridge, Tennessee.

Those in attendance were:

Bruce Garner, Chairman, Chattanooga Fire Department
Larry Martin, Vice Chairman, McKee Foods
Jamie Farrow, Vice Chairman, Conagra Poultry
Dane Creel, Vice Chairman, Nabisco, Inc.
Wayne Stuntz, Secretary, Hamilton County Emergency Services
Richard Taylor, Tennessee Emergency Management Agency
Lori Bachus, Tennessee American Water Company
Dusty Rominger W.R. Grace
Jon Kavalunas, CARTA
Randy Snorek, Electric Power Board
C.R. Goodner, RACES
Tim McDonald, Chattanooga Storm Water Mgmt
Kevan Parker, HEPACO, Inc.
Bill Tittle, Chief, Emergency Management
Vicki Riddle, Velsicol Chemical Corp.
David Allen, Conagra Foods
Michael Poe, SOFIX Corp.
Myra Chandler, RN, Nurse Mngr. Conagra Foods (Guest)
Caroline Williams, League of Women Voters
Shirley Wilson (Guest)
Brian D. Lopez-Cepero, Self--Chattanooga Police Dept.
Garish Patel, ALCO Chemical
Chris Young, Atlanta Gas Light Company
Amy Maxwell, Hamilton County Emergency Services
Buddy Kamin, Hamilton County Emergency Services
Mike Edwards, McKee Foods

Those in Attendance (Cont):

Doye Cox, Barge, Waggoner, Summer, & Cannon, Inc. (Guest Speaker)
George Sivils, DuPont Company
Maureen Handler, Environmental Response
Ron Lunardon, US Coast Guard Auxiliary
Indu Thacker, Hamilton County Engineering Dept.

Chairman Bruce Garner called the meeting to order at 10:38 a.m. and welcomed all in attendance. For the benefit of the guests present, the Chairman asked each person to introduce themselves.

Old Business

The Chairman asked if everyone had received the minutes from the previous meeting. All in attendance indicated that they had and the Chairman then asked that the minutes be approved as written. There being no request for correction or discussion, Ms. Maureen Handler moved to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Mr. Brian Lopez-Cepero and unanimously approved by the committee.

The Chairman asked for the financial report. The Secretary-Treasurer read the financial report previously handed out to each member in attendance. Mr. Stuntz said the LEPC's current AmSouth Bank account balance is \$19,268.53, which includes deposits in the amount of \$1,050.00 since the last bank statement. A copy of the financial report is a matter of record. The Chairman, before proceeding with further business, asked for the committee's input on how best to present the financial report to the committee. He said that the current procedure is to reproduce the report in 30-35 copies and then distribute them during the meeting—adding that this is somewhat of a costly procedure. A few solutions were offered and the final solution was to include the report in the e-mail along with the minutes, meeting notice and agenda when it is sent to members.

The Chairman then asked if there was any other Old Business to discuss—there being none moved on to new business.

New Business

The Chairman at this time asked Vice Chair Jamie Farrow to introduce our guest speaker. Ms. Farrow said it was her pleasure to introduce Mr. Doye Cox, a longtime resident of Chattanooga who has spent a lot of his career on the road at remediation sites across the country. She said he has worked in hazardous waste spills for over 27 years. He is the former president of the Tennessee section of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the former national president of the Academy of Certified Hazardous

Material Managers. Ms. Farrow said that he is a registered Professional Engineer and currently the Senior Engineer with Barge, Waggoner, Summer and Cannon.

Mr. Cox began by saying that he was asked to speak on the subject of Protective Personal Equipment (PPE) and, although not an expert in PPE, has worn a lot of them over the years in a variety of circumstances where it was important to make field modifications. The subject of Mr. Cox's presentation was entitled "Common Sense Modifications in the Application and Use of PPE". In summary, Mr. Cox spoke of the OSHA required Levels of Protection (LOP) defining Level A, B, C, and D PPE and elaborated on how the levels of protection were selected. He spoke of the need for modifications (i.e. during cold climates/hot climates), and how the use of PPE can negatively affect safety. Mr. Cox also spoke on how workloads can create stress while wearing PPE and how physical hazards can damage an unprotected suit. Mr. Cox elaborated on reasons for common sense modifications, stressing that the level of protection is based on many things. For example, does the situation warrant a Level A suit. He said you should not automatically assume an LOP based on the chemical of concern. He said you should also consider whether or not part of the crew be downgraded by specializing tasks.

Mr. Cox concluded by citing different reasons the environment could be hostile to the workers/PPE and the need to consider applying additional protective layers to keep the bulk of waste off the suit that would tend to decrease the rate of permeation, thus decreasing the probability of waste penetration. A copy of Mr. Cox's slide presentation is on file with the LEPC.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Cox for his excellent presentation. The Chairman then turned the attention to subcommittee reports, noting that some of the subcommittee chairpersons were not in attendance for various reasons. He then called on Mr. Larry Martin, Chairman of the Plans Subcommittee.

Mr. Martin said he could not offer an update at this point, but hopes to have something more substantive following his September subcommittee meeting. Adding to Mr. Martin's remarks, the Chairman said the Chattanooga Fire Department had approval to buy a new software package, which might be potentially meaningful to the LEPC in that it would be able to use a module of that software to facilitate the LEPCs work. The Chairman said that the fire department was in the process of bringing in people to train 400 firefighters, which, he said, must mean that the software is on the way.

The Chairman then said that Mr. Darnell, Chair for the Conference Subcommittee, was not able to attend due to unexpected guest arriving at his Plant. Mr. Darnell told the Chairman that most of the speakers were lined up and things were looking good.

The Chairman added that the Electric Power Board contributed \$700.00 for the conference, which is very much appreciated. Details of the Conference subcommittee's meeting will be given at the next LEPC meeting.

The Chairman offered that at the last Executive Committee meeting, executive committee members present were asked if they favored backing the conference. In other words, using LEPC funds to provide the financial support necessary to cover expenses (i.e. speakers fee's, etc.) if the \$14,000.00 grant from TEMA failed to cover all of the expenses. Mr. Garner said that the Executive Committee voted in favor of supporting the conference financially—just as it did for last year's conference. Fortunately, there was no need to provide additional funding last year. He said that this was sort of an insurance policy on the part of the LEPC to back the conference—adding that this is the major outreach effort of the LEPC on an annual basis and we should back it. The Chairman asked the committee if there were any comments or objections about this—there were no objections or further discussion.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Bill Tittle, who has been very instrumental in making the conference happen—securing the grant and working out the means for allowing the expenditure of funds, in advance of the grant deadline of September 30th, to accommodate the conference being held in conjunction with the TRANSCAER Train Whistle Stop Tour during the second week in October.

The Chairman then called on the Exercise Subcommittee chair, Ms. Jamie Farrow. Ms. Farrow reiterated that JIT Terminal has offered to host the next fall exercise, but no date had been planned as yet. Ms. Farrow made an appeal to the LEPC once more for help on the committee.

Next, Mr. Garner called on Mr. Dane Creel of the Programs subcommittee. Mr. Creel said that he had worked out the LEPC meeting schedule with Wally's restaurant for the rest of the year—that the facility seemed to be adequate with no complaints. Mr. Creel said that the next meeting date was scheduled for Sept 11 and that could be a scheduling problem for some and proposed that the next meeting be moved September 18th, the third Wednesday of the month. Ms. Jamie Farrow made the motion to move the meeting to 9/18/02, seconded by Mr. Brian Lopez-Cepero with no discussion—motion carried by committee at large.

The Chairman told the committee that the Programs subcommittee is always open for suggestions for programs and that we have covered some very specific topics over the last few meetings. Mr. Garner reminded the committee that during the November meeting we had a distinguished panel discussion on terrorism and what local companies needed to know. The Chairman offered that there have been quite a few new initiatives since our last panel discussion, (i.e. new grants being issued on bio-terrorism, the new

Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS), and the Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT), which recently was unveiled at Erlanger Hospital and new WMD grants. The Chairman said this would be the avenue that the LEPC will pursue for the September meeting.

Next, the Chairman called on the Membership subcommittee. Ms. Maxwell had no new membership information, however, offered that she was again preparing the program for this year's conference and for those who are interested in putting an ad in the program to give her a call. Ms. Maxwell said that the LEPC is in dire need of donations, which helps to pay for speakers, food, etc.—noting that it is also good advertisement for the contributor. Ms. Maxwell reminded the committee that if they wished to have an exhibit to call Mr. Dusty Rominger (423) 697-8220.

Mr. Garner took the opportunity to recognize and welcome Mr. Richard Taylor from TEMA East to the meeting, and asked if he would like to offer any comments from a state level perspective. Mr. Taylor said that since 9/11, smaller counties have fared better with WMD grant monies in the last few months—and even though the grants are in the \$20,000 to \$30,000 range, they are able to put together a HAZMAT team that they were never been able to do before. Mr. Taylor took the opportunity to recognize Mr. Kevan Parker of HEPACO, who has trained personnel in the smaller counties where they are close to having a HAZMAT team, or at least brought them to a level where they can respond to the rescue part of the effort.

The Chairman then recognized Mr. Bill Tittle, Chief of Emergency Management, who has been quite involved in the planning and coordinating the Hamilton County's effort to respond to WMD and bio-terrorism. Mr. Tittle first thanked the committee for its participation and how important the committee was in terms of an emergency manager/planner viewpoint. Mr. Tittle said that he appreciates what the LEPC does. He reminded the committee that out of all the Risk Management Plan (RMP) companies in the county, only a small fraction of them are members of the LEPC. He further stated that if a plant has something on its site worthy of filing an RMP, then that facility has an obligation to its employees, to your neighbors and the community at large—to be part of the LEPC.

Mr. Tittle told the committee that he planned on visiting some of the RMP companies and telling them about their obligations, saying that he believed that we could learn from them as well as them learning from the LEPC—how to be better prepared and better respond and that it was not fair to put the burden on a few who work so hard year after year to support the LEPC. He reminded the committee that terrorists are looking for ways to use chemicals to spread fear and harm to the general public. He reminded the committee of the Tokyo subway Sarin gas release—saying that the perpetrators had 50,000 followers in six countries and a billion dollars in resources to spread their

chemicals. He said that is why we are so concerned about chemical terrorism as well as bio-terrorism.

Mr. Tittle reminded the LEPC that, according to the experts, we have the potential of having a 100,000 or more acre forest fire due to the number of dead pine trees in our forest. He said another area of concern is nuclear waste—that we have been training on how to handle this for a long time—reminding the LEPC that the County had an exercise involving a lot of agencies, under the auspices of the Dept. of Energy, training the Fire Department, HAZMAT, and other agencies should we have a transportation accident. Mr. Tittle talked briefly about spent nuclear fuel at the Sequoyah Plant and the spent fuel coming back from Europe—another cause for concern.

The Chairman then addressed the formation of the Nominating Committee—reminding the committee that every September is officer election month—saying that his two-year term ends this September. Mr. Garner said that part of the job of the nominating committee is to find out who still wants to serve as Vice-Chairs on the Executive Committee, and to search for a Chairperson from the Executive Committee to serve for the next year. He said that the task now is to have a Nominating Committee that will work over the next couple months to come up with a proposal for a slate of officers. He then proceeded to name three people who agreed to serve on that committee: Mr. Mike Poe of Sofix Corp., who agreed to chair the committee, Lori Backus with Tennessee American, and Lt. Mike Brooks with East Ridge Fire Department. The Chairman thanked all who agreed to serve on that committee.

The Chairman reminded the committee about the meeting on Sept 18 at 10:30 am, with the panel discussion on the overall issues related to WMD and Bio-terrorism, etc., adding that it will be a busy meeting.

Other Business

Mr. Garner said that he wanted to offer his thanks to Tyson Chandler, Dane Creel, David Darnell, Larry Martin, Tim McDonald and Dick Twitchell for volunteering to represent the LEPC at Chattanooga Made display at Northgate Mall last May, saying that they all served at the booth fostering the outreach that the LEPC does and that he appreciates their help in that outreach.

The Chairman then asked if there was any other business to discuss. Mr. Dusty Rominger told the committee of the need for more vendors/exhibitors and sponsors for breaks for the conference and how important these are to conference success. The Chairman reminded everyone how of critical sponsors are to the conference, so if you can help, contact Dusty as soon as possible.

Ms. Caroline Williams suggested that perhaps we should start the next meeting a little earlier than 10:30 a.m. to accommodate better the busy agenda. The Chairman said that would be carefully considered. There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting.